

Investigation Called Big Joke by Ferrie

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)—David W. Ferrie, a pilot who did private investigating and listed himself as a psychologist, had complained that Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison had him "pegged as the getaway pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." He called it a "big joke."

The New Orleans district attorney, in an investigation that started last October, has been trying to prove that a conspiracy was hatched here that "culminated in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy" in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Garrison promised arrests and convictions, but kept details secret.

THE PROBE has stirred an international furor because it backed up critics of the Warren Commission, who claim that the assassination of the President could hardly have been the work of just one man.

The official commission report said Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy — and there was no credible evidence to show anyone else was implicated.

Ferrie was interrogated by Garrison's office last November for the second time in connection with the assassination. The first was in 1963.

"We arrested Ferrie 72 hours after John F. Kennedy was assassinated," said Garrison. "The arrest was on the basis of information supplied out of this office. I turned Ferrie over to the FBI on Nov. 23, 1963. As a matter of record at that time, we suggested the FBI take a detailed statement."

Garrison said he had never seen a copy of the FBI interrogation.

"THERE ARE 40 pages relating to the interrogation and report on Ferrie which are in the National Archives in Washington," he said. "Only four of these pages are unclassified."

Ferrie repeatedly denied that he ever knew Oswald, a former New Orleans resident.

Ferrie said he and two companions went to Texas from New Orleans the afternoon of the assassination. He insisted it was a pleasure trip.

"We went to Houston, Galveston and back to Alexandria, La.," he said, adding that he had given a "meticulous" account of the trip during the first interrogation.

Ferrie said it was fruitless to search for an accomplice to Oswald because "My assessment of Oswald is that he would be incapable of any interpersonal relationship, especially anything as delicate as a conspiracy to kill."

A POLICE OFFICER outside Ferrie's apartment, shortly after officers arrived Wednesday to take away the nude body, pointed to a blond youth with long sideburns and said, "He found him."

The youth was hustled away by police. Before he left, he told a reporter he didn't find the body, didn't know Ferrie and "just happened to wander in."

Ferrie was odd looking. An explosion several years ago cost him his hair and eyebrows. He wore a shaggy toupee and mascara eyebrows.

Police records showed he was fired as an airline pilot after being arrested in Jefferson Parish



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

David W. Ferrie... figure in investigation of Kennedy slaying found dead.

(county), which adjoins New Orleans, on a morals charge. The case never went to trial.

Garrison said his investigation has unearthed evidence not available to the Warren Commission. He would not elaborate.

FERRIE, A NATIVE of Cleveland, Ohio, has lived in New Orleans the last 15 years.

Oswald lived in New Orleans during the summer of 1963.

Ferrie said Voble was in the Moisant Squadron and "I was in the Lakefront Squadron."

Told that his connection with the Garrison investigation would

2. 2965-73B

February 23, 1967

Captain W. F. Dyson
Administrative Services Bureau
Dallas Police Department

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE (1)
JIM GARPISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Sir:

The attached news paper clippings taken from the February 23, 1967 issue of the Dallas Morning News are in regard to SUBJECTS current investigation into the assassination of PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

Respectfully submitted,

C T Burnley

C. T. Burnley, Detective
Criminal Intelligence Section

Det. 2965-73

Probe Figure Found Dead

DA Says Arrest of Pilot in JFK Death Planned

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)—David W. Ferrie, an important and strange figure in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was found dead in bed Wednesday. Garrison said he had planned to arrest Ferrie next week.

"The apparent suicide of David Ferrie ends the life of a man who, in my judgment, was one of history's most important

Related stories, Page 4A.

individuals," Garrison told a news conference.

Coroner Nicholas Chetta said Ferrie's death was due to a ruptured blood vessel in the brain, but that further tests were being made.

Garrison said Ferrie, a pilot, had been under continual observation and his information "had caused us to become increasingly concerned . . . about the possibility of his killing himself.

"Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved

in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Because of this, at a meeting at my house this morning, we had reached a decision to arrest him early next week. Apparently we waited too long."

Dr. Chetta said a note was found in the dining room of Ferrie's cluttered apartment which said, in part:

"To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable and on the other hand everything that is loathsome."

The coroner said Ferrie, about 45, was born with a weakness of one blood vessel at the base of the brain. When this ruptured, it caused massive hemorrhage, he added.

However, because of the circumstances and the note, a full autopsy was ordered to check the possibility of suicide. The body was found nude, with a sheet pulled up to the chest.

Ferrie had told friends he was suffering

from encephalitis (sleeping sickness). Dr. Chetta said he had hypertensive cardiovascular disease—high blood pressure.

Garrison told reporters the "primary reason for the planned arrest of Ferrie was because we felt we had reached a point where we had enough information to move."

Ferrie became "increasingly more and more nervous as the investigation progressed," said Garrison.

"Although my office has been investigating Ferrie intensively for months, we have not mentioned his name publicly up to this point," Garrison added. "The unique nature of this case now leaves me no other course of action."

Asked if he had any reason to believe anybody but Lee Harvey Oswald took part in the actual assassination, Garrison replied:

"I have no reason to believe at this point that Lee Harvey Oswald killed anybody in Dallas on that day."

make him a national celebrity
Ferrie replied:

"What will being a national celebrity get me? Thirty-five cents and being a national celebrity will get you a hamburger. I want to be left alone to my flying."

Ferrie ran a private flying service from a coffee shop at New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

"HE WAS ALWAYS very nice and never got out of line," a waitress who declined to give her name recalled Wednesday. "He was intelligent and real serious about flying, because that's all he ever talked about."

Garrison said he is confident his investigation will prove President Kennedy's assassination was the culmination of a conspiracy in New Orleans.

The district attorney began his probe in secret last October. The New Orleans States-Item revealed the investigation Friday, an action Garrison denounced as a serious hindrance to his work.

Garrison said Saturday he expects to arrest at least five persons, though the arrests "are most certainly months away."

Ferrie told the States-Item that while he was in Texas in 1963, his home was entered by district attorney's investigators who carted off books, photographs and personal belongings.

FERRIE SAID he heard nothing more about the matter until last November when he was summoned to Garrison's office. He said chief investigator Louis Iven told him Garrison had "positively uncovered a plot in New Orleans to assassinate Kennedy."

He said he was released and not contacted again.

It was learned, however, the district attorney's office later had two men maintaining surveillance of his apartment.

In Fort Worth, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, said: "I've always been amazed that the man (Ferrie) was arrested and questioned, but not interviewed by the Warren Commission. He is not listed in the Warren report as testifying in person before the commission members . . .

"I'm shocked and dismayed that another life may have been forfeited for lack of a thorough investigation."

Another Link?

Exhuming Of Body Requested

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—The county solicitor was asked Wednesday to exhumate the body of a man whose brother said he believed he was being harassed by "agents" following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The man, Thomas Henry Killam, died March 17, 1964, amid shattered glass on a downtown Pensacola street.

The Pensacola News-Journal said Killam was married to a stripper who worked for Jack Ruby in Dallas. The paper also said that Killam worked as a house painter with a man named Jack Carter, who had roomed in Dallas at one time with Lee Harvey Oswald.

Killam's brother, Earl, asked the solicitor to exhumate the body to determine the cause of death.

Police listed the death as probable suicide, but the coroner had called the death accidental, the newspaper said.

Solicitor Carl Harper said he took a statement from Killam Wednesday morning and would decide after an investigation whether to exhumate the body. He would not discuss the statement or his planned investigation.

Earl Killam was quoted as saying his brother told him that "agents" and "plotters" visited him repeatedly after the assassination, when the brother was living in Dallas while his wife worked for Ruby as a stripper, the News-Journal said.

Finally, the newspaper quoted the brother as saying Thomas Killam left Texas and returned to Pensacola to live with his mother.

But he still complained of being constantly questioned by the "agents" about the presidential assassination, the brother was quoted as saying.

Killam moved to Tampa and worked for three months, but still felt that he was being harassed by the "agents," the brother's story continued.

On returned to Pensacola in the middle of March, the newspaper said, and two days before he was found dead he told his brother:

"I'm a dead man. I've run as far as I'm going to run."

The newspaper said Killam never identified the "agents" specifically.

Harper said he had not heard of any controversy surrounding the Killam death until he was contacted by reporter Eddie Narker of the Pensacola newspaper Wednesday night.

Harper said he had not talked to Dist. Atty. James Garrison of New Orleans, but planned to talk to him as part of the investigation.

Thomas Killam's wife, Wanda, had been associated with Ruby for 15 years, the brother was reported as saying.

Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission said killed President Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.